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and
 Allison Gill



THE DAREDEVILS

Welcome to issue 3 of The Daredevils! Read, enjoy and send your comments to: The Daredevils, Marvel Comics, 205-211 Kentish Town Road, Kentish Town, London NW5.

DAREDEVIL

NAME OF MAG. D. D. NAME OF CHARACTER: D. D.
 AGE: _____ HEIGHT: _____ WEIGHT: _____ HAIR COLOR: _____
 SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS: _____



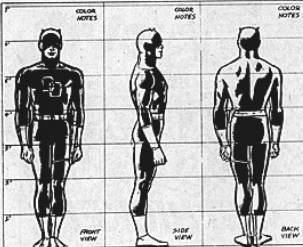
FRONT VIEW



3/4 VIEW



SIDE VIEW



artist Wally Wood's original character sketch for Daredevil, circa 1964.

COMIC STRIP
 CAPTAIN BRITAIN
 THICKER THAN WATER..... p.4
 Brian is in for a surprise!

DAREDEVIL
 TO DARE THE DEVIL..... p.15
 The break down of a man!

SPIDER-MAN
 ENTER: DR. OCTOPUS..... p.40
 Peter Parker gets more than he bargained for when he goes to a Science Exhibition with Gwen!

INSIDE COMICS
 CONVENTION REPORT..... p.12
 Hassan Yusuf reports on the USA July Comics Convention!

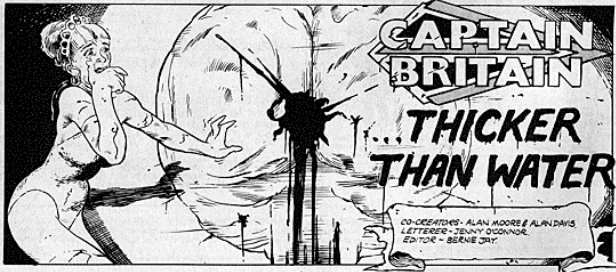
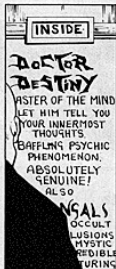
BULLPEN BULLETINS..... p.20
 This month we introduce you to our Top Ten Rating Chart.

EARLY ARTWORK..... p.31
 This month we introduce you to Paul Neary's early comic strip work.

FANZINE REVIEWS..... p.39
 Alan Moore reviews Chain Reaction.

STAN LEE: BLINDED BY THE HYPE..... p.44
 The first part of a feature about Stan Lee and his contribution to comics.

COMIC MART..... p.54
 A comic swaps section!



BY THE TIME THE LIGHTS
CAME UP, HE WAS GONE
MILES AWAY. A PHONE IS
RINGING.

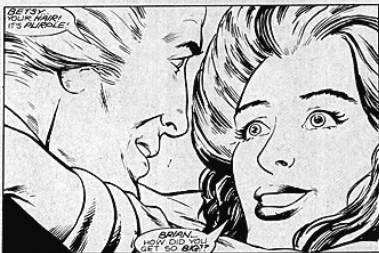
A PHONE THAT SHOULDN'T
BE RINGING AT ALL.

NBODDY
KNOWS I'M
HERE.

NBODDY.









"THE VIXEN" BUT I FOUGHT HIS
HENCHMEN A FEW YEARS BACK.
I MEAN, I NEVER ACTUALLY GOT
MY HANDS ON THE VIXEN HIMSELF,
BUT."

"YEAH, I KNOW ALL THAT BUT
LISTEN, THE VIXEN MANAGED
TO GET HIS PEOPLE INTO ALL
THE TOP POSITIONS AT
STRIKE AND NOBODY
KNEW ABOUT IT."

"NOBODY BUT THE PSI-
DIVISION. WE KNEW
BY VIRTUE OF OUR
POWERS, SO WE HAD
TO BE ELIMINATED."

"WE REALIZED THAT WE
WERE TARGETS, SO WE
WENT INTO HIDING.
WENT UNDERGROUND
UNTIL WE COULD WORK
OUT WHAT TO DO. THERE
WERE TEN OF US THEN."

"THERE'S FIVE NOW YOU
SEE. THE VIXEN HIRED
SOME SORT OF ASSASSIN
TO MURDER US DOWN.
HE'S DOING A GOOD
JOB, BRIAN."

CHUK

"HE'S KILLING
US. HE'S
AAAAARRRRRGHHH!"

"BETSY?
WHAT'S WRONG?
BETSY?"





HE'S KILLING THEM ALL

BUT
NEXT MR.
LENNOX I BE-
LIEVE THAT YOU ARE
THE TELEKINETIC
OF THE PARTY

BUT TO
USE YOUR POWER
YOU NEED TIME
TO CONCENTRATE.
DON'T YOU?

TIME
MR. LENNIX.
YOU DO NOT
HAVE



I
DON'T BELIEVE
THIS IS HAPPENING
THOSE PEOPLE ARE
REALLY DEAD WE'RE
GOING TO DO SOME
THING

YES?
WE MAY BE
LOOKING FOR
RIGHT SUPER-
HEROES. BUT WE'RE
NOT SUPERHEROES
OURSELVES

THAT'S
TELE



BUT
AM

ALRIGHT
WHOEVER YOU
ARE LEAVE THAT
MAN ALONE I'M
CAPTAIN BRITAIN
YOU'RE IN
TROUBLE



CAPTAIN?
NO SURELY NOT THE
COSTUME AND THE
BUILD ARE WRONG
BUT THEN

THE
VOICE THE SIMPLE
MINDED ARROGANCE
YOU ARE CAPTAIN
BRITAIN, AREN'T
YOU?

OH
BUT SURELY THE
PROPHET SMILES
UPON ME HA HA HA
THIS IS PRICELESS



DON'T KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT,
CHUM, BUT WHEN I'M
FINISHED WITH YOU EVEN
YOUR OWN MOTHER WILL
BE HARD PRESSED TO
RAISE A SMILE.

UNLESS
WAIT A MINUTE
YOU'RE NOT



OH
BUT I
AM

I'M
SLAYMASTER

IT'S
BEEN A LONG
TIME, CAPTAIN

NEXT ISH: KILLING GROUND

COMIC CONVENTIONS

JULY CON

I'm sure many British comics fans have always wanted to attend an American Convention. We hear so much about them, eg, how spectacular they are jam-packed with guests. One of the more popular Convention's is the New York Comic Art Convention, also known as the JulyCon. It was this Convention, that yours truly and fellow comics addict Chris Savva attended during the summer.

JulyCon was held at the New York Sheraton Hotel on July 3-5. You'll notice it was a three-day event. A nice change from the usual British two-dayer. The Con seemed to have taken over the entire Hotel with something happening on three floors. There was always something to do or watch. To be truthful, I wasn't concerned too much about the events or panels. Like most Cons the most enjoyable thing about them is the fan-to-fan communication. It was at JulyCon that I met many members of *Interlac* — an American APA (Amateur Press Association) based around the *Legion of Super-Heroes*, which I belong to. So I spent a lot of time with the *Interlac* members, plus a

lot of time in the dealers room. American prices are very similar to British ones. The American dealers, however were more willing to bring down prices if you haggled with them.

Events and activities during the three days included: make-up demonstrations; film and slide shows (Pink Floyd The Wall, Poltergeist, Secret of NIMH, etc); Walt Disney memory tests; how to create masks and costumes; auctions; and much more.

Guests from the world of comics included *Brian Bolland*, *Mike Barr*, *Frank Miller*, *Dick Giordano*, *Walt Simonson*, *Terry Austin*, *Len Wein*, *Marv Wolfman*, *Paul Kupperberg*, *Jan Duursema* and *Jim Shooter*. *Rich Buckler* was also there, but not as a comics professional, but rather as the director of a live action show about Kung Fu. There was an interesting display of the martial art. Scenes from the display will apparently appear in the film *Spirit of Kung Fu*.

Dick Giordano gave a talk on 'How to break into comics'. *Mr Giordano* was also there to view artwork from semi-pros trying to break into the industry. (*Giordano* and *Joe Orlando* were actually in

England some months ago looking for British artists. That's probably where *Dave Gibbons* gained his *Creepers* series.)

I missed the *Frank Miller* panel, but I'm sure I heard it all at Comica-na (Britain's October '82 Convention).

Brian Bolland and *Mike Barr* gave a talk on *Camelot 3000* (which wasn't released yet). DC are certainly trying to promote the series. They sent *Bolland* and *Barr* to many Conventions. (After seeing the first two issues, it needs all the promotion it can get.)

The new *Teen Titans* panel consisted of *Len Wein* and *Marv Wolfman*. They told us some of their future plans for the hit series. They were joined by *Chris Claremont*, *Walt Simonson* and *Terry Austin* to make-up the *X-Men* and the new *Teen Titans* panel. They told us a bit about the background to the successful team-up.

The *Arion* panel didn't gather a big crowd, but *Paul Kupperberg* and *Jan Duursema* did their best. Fans seemed reluctant to ask questions. I wonder if it's because nobody understands what's happening in the series?!

At the end of each DC panel, the audience were treated to free colour DC posters! Good PR, that.

Marvel's Editor-in-Chief, *Jim Shooter* gave a talk on some of his policies for the company plus some info on up-coming things, eg, the new *Epic* line of comics.

The comic parade at the JulyCon



RON "Power Man" WILSON



Cheerful CHRIS CLAREMONT



JACK "Able" ABEL

was quite a special event. There were some very good outfits. The winner was a 7 foot three-legged robot-looking thing straight out of *Star Wars* or *2000AD*.

Other costumed character around the Con, but not in the parade, included *Batman* and *Spider-Man* (he gets around does our wall-crawler). Bats walked around in a shiny blue cape, while Spidey's costume was a bit more realistic.

While on the subject of America, perhaps I should mention that Chris and I were given a tour of the DC and Marvel offices. DC don't do tours anymore, but *Mike Flynn*, DC's Promotions Manager managed to find time in his very busy schedule to show us around. The only pro we managed to have a chat with was *Jan Duursema* (nice lady), but we did recognise a few familiar faces, eg, *Dick Giordano*, *E. Nelson Bridwell*, *Bob Rozakis*, *Paul Levitz*, *Julius Schwartz* and *Jenette Kahn*. Even though we weren't there for long, we did sense a nice working atmosphere.

A friendly atmosphere also seemed the norm at the Marvel offices. Fortunately they still do tours, and since I work for their British base, we were expected.

Our guide, whose name I forget (a strange fellow who kept on giggling every time I mentioned that British Marvel reprint American Marvels), took us on a tour of Marvel's new offices, which they had recently moved into. Going through the Editorial Department we met and had little chats with the lovely *Louise Jones*, *Ralph Mac-*

chio, *Archie Goodwin*, and I'm sure many others that elude my memory.

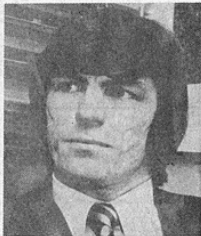
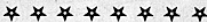
Going through the production room we met comic book greats such as *Jack Able* (who was doing some corrections for the *Avengers annual*) and *Frank Giacoia*, plus other Marvel mainstays such as *Ron Wilson*.

The highlight of the day, however was having lunch with *Jim Shooter*, who took us to a very nice Italian restaurant (at Marvel's expense of course). We had a very interesting long chat about comics in general, and what *Shooter's* trying to do at Marvel. He definitely seems to have his head firmly on his shoulders, and is very confident that Marvel is going in the right direction. Marvel are in fact doing better than ever. Their last three years have been the best yet.

Shooter, by the way, still considers the best thing he's written to be the *Legion of Super-Heroes* series in *Adventure Comics*. One reason why he thinks the series was so successful was that he actually laid-out the stories as well as wrote them. This would explain why he wants comics drawn his way.

Enough of name dropping. Back to one last word about the Con. JulyCon. I'm told was a smaller affair than usual. However, very entertaining and successful. What more can you ask for? Roll on next year.

Hassan Yusuf



JIM SHOOTER



Artful ARCHIE GOODWIN



Joyful DICK GIORDANO



Litling LEN WEIN



Fearless FRANK GIACOA

marvel's winter special explosion!

8 DYNAMIC TITLES!

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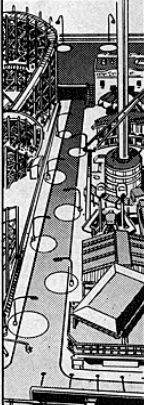


**ALSO- DAREDEVIL
DR WHO BLAKES 7**



DAREDEVIL®

THE D-TRAIN
LUMBERS SOUTH
FROM THE BRONX,
RUMBLING
THROUGH THE
BOROUGHS OF
MANHATTAN
AND BROOKLYN,
TO ITS FINAL
STOP AT CONEY
ISLAND.



FOR SOME IT IS
A TRIP TO A MAKE-
BELIEVE WONDER-
LAND OF THRILLS,
SPILLS AND CHILLS.



BUT FOR
OTHERS IT
IS THE END
OF THE
LINE...

"MITHER
THAUTHER!
YOU BOTH
DO
THOMTHIN!"



HEY, WHAT'S WITH
TURK? HE LOOKS
LIKE HE'S SEEN
A GHOST.

OR A
DEVIL.

WONDER
TREE!

TO DARE THE DEVIL

A ROGER MCKENZIE * FRANK MILLER * KLAUS JANSON Spectacular
DIANA ALBERS ALLEN MILGROM & MARY JO DUFFY * JIM SHOOTER
LETTERER * EDITORS ED.-IN-CHIEF

IT' TH **DAREDEVIL!**
HE' TH ON TO UTH!
HE EVEN KNOWTH
ABOUT BULLTHEYE!

A-AN' HE THED
HE' TH COMIN'
AFTER YOU
NEKHT, MITHER
THAUTHER!

YES, I SUSPECTED AS
MUCH.



BUT APPARENT-
LY YOU DID NOT
SUSPECT HE
WOULD SIMPLY
FOLLOW YOU
HERE!

YOU ARE A FRIGHT-
ENED
LITTLE
FOOL,
TURK. I DO NOT
LIKE
FRIGHT-
ENED
LITTLE
FOOLS.

BETTER GO EASY
ON YOUR HIRED
HELP. SLAUGHTER
HURTING THEM'S NOT GOOD
FOR BUSINESS.



MY
BUSINESS,
DAREDEVIL,
IS **MURDER**..
--YOURS!

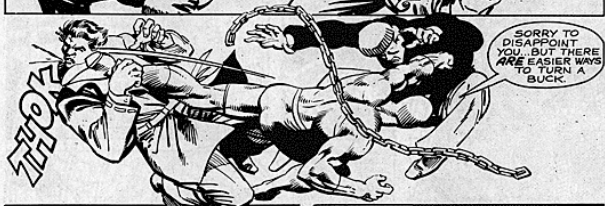
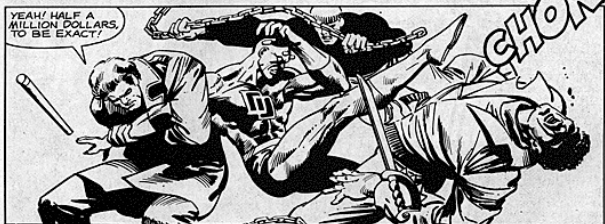
AND **MINE** IS FINDING
BULLSEYE.

HE PUT OUT A CON-
TRACT FOR MY DEATH.
ONE YOU WERE QUICK
TO ACCEPT...

WELL, HE SUCCEEDED. I'M
HERE, SLAUGHTER, AND
I **WANT** HIM. I WANT
HIM SO BADLY I CAN
TASTE IT!



AND PREDICT-
ABLY SLOW TO FUL-
FILL WHEN YOU
CAME UP EMPTY. HE
KIDNAPPED THE BLACK
WIDOW, INTENDING TO
LEAD ME INTO SOME
SORT OF TRAP.



...AND, SECONDS LATER...



CONEY ISLAND IS SUPPOSED TO BE CLOSED FOR THE WINTER SEASON. OBVIOUSLY IT'S NOT.

BULLSEYE'S TAUNTING ME, FORCING ME OUT IN THE OPEN. I'D BETTER BE READY FOR--



ANYTHING!



BECAUSE IN HIS HANDS ANYTHING CAN BE A DEADLY WEAPON!

STANDS TO REASON HE'D TURN THIS RIDE INTO A DEATH-TRAP--



GET HIM!

BLAM!
BLAM!

HOW? HE MOVES SO FAST, CAN'T DRAW A BEAD ON 'IM!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO! JUST KEEP HIM PINNED UP THERE A FEW MORE SECONDS AND HE'LL BE CRUSHED!

I DON'T KNOW IF SHE'S ALIVE OR DEAD, BUT I DO KNOW I'VE GOT TO GET OFF THIS HOT-SPOT... NOW!

HIS UNIQUE RADAR-SENSE PINPOINTS A DARK, SILHOUETTED SHAPE FULLY A HUNDRED FEET AWAY, BELOW IT, THE GROUND.

INSTINCTIVELY HE UNSHEATHS HIS BILLY-CLUB, REALIZING IN THAT INSTANT, AS HE HANGS PERILOUSLY BETWEEN HIS OWN LIFE AND DEATH, ONE THING...



BULLPEN BULLETINS

Remember if you cannot find either *The Daredevils* or *MSH* in your local newsagents, then send an s.a.e. to Perfect Mailing, 19f Spital Road, Maldon, Essex for details.



WELL DONE HASS!

Congratulations to Hassan Yusuf for all his work over the last few months, because he has been made Associate Editor of *Spider-Man* and *Fantastic Four* weeklies.

Last issue we featured Jerry Paris' early artwork. Unfortunately we failed to get his biographical details back from the typesetters in time for publication — (ouch! slapped hands for not putting it through earlier).

Apologies for the delay to Jerry and you. Below, the omitted details!

JERRY PARIS

Current Work: Posters in *Spider-Man* TV comic and *Fantastic Four*.

Jerry was born 19/11/62 and studied O and A level art at a Further Education College from the age of 14-16 yrs.

At seventeen he started doing spot illustrations for Dr Who. Two or three months later he joined the Marvel staff as art assistant working on such titles as *Forces in Combat*, *Marvel Team-Up*, *Future Tense*, *Valour*, *Spider-Man* and *Hulk*. He stayed only 9 months, leaving to pursue a full time career as an artist and illustrator. He didn't work for a year. Then, back to art assisting, this time for Quality Communications on *Warrior*, *Halls of Horror* and *Heroes of the Movies*, and for London Editions on *Disney Publications*.

By January 1982 however, Jerry received work from Marvel doing original comic strip, posters and a *Blake's 7* comic strip.

Currently in the pipeline, in addition to numerous posters and covers is the comic strip artwork for a *Grandreams* annual.

NEWS FLASH!

TIM QUINN, WELL KNOWN SCRIPT WRITER ON EARTH 33 1/3rd — A SUPER VILLAIN!!

Peruse the pictures below — spot the likeness.



If you see this man do **not** tackle him. I repeat, do **not** tackle him. He is dangerous!

Inform *Daredevils* of his whereabouts at once: Time Date and Place. If possible send a picture.

We *must* be aware of his movements and track him down!

Keep your eyes peeled, your camera ready and remember, this man *must* be stopped.



Each month we will print a list of his whereabouts and the pics we receive, plus any additional information you think may be of help in our cause. Don't forget that he may be in disguise!

Address your letters to: He Must Be Stopped, Marvel Comics, Jadvyn House, 205-211 Kentish Town Road, London NW5.

ALL SILLY ENTRIES PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE!

Know ye these, the hallowed ranks of Marveldom!

RFO (*Real Frantic One* — Buyer of at least 3 regular Marvel mags).

TTB (*Titanic True Believer* — A divinely-inspired 'no-prize' winner).

QNS (*Quite 'Nuff Sayer* — A fortunate Frantic One who's had a letter printed).

KOF (*Keeper of the Flame* — One who recruits a newcomer to Marvel's rollickin' ranks).

PMM (*Permanent Marvelite Maximus* — Anyone possessing all four of the other titles).

FFF (*Fearless Front Facer* — An honorary title bestowed for devotion to Marvel above and beyond the call of duty).

RATING CHART

NO CHANGE THIS MONTH!

TOP TEN

WRITERS

1. CHRIS CLAREMONT (1)
2. DOUG MOENCH (2)
3. FRANK MILLER (3)
4. BILL MANTLO (5)
5. ROY THOMAS (4)
6. JOHN BYRNE (9)
7. STEVE GERBER (6)
8. JIM SHOOTER (7)
9. STEVE ENGLEHART (8)
10. MARV WOLFGMAN (10)

UK COMICS

1. RAMPAGE MONTHLY (1)
2. MSH's MONTHLY (2)
3. CAPTAIN BRITAIN (3)
4. AVENGERS WEEKLY (5)
5. SPIDERMAN WEEKLY (6)
6. RAMPAGE WEEKLY (4)
7. MIGHTY WORLD OF MARVEL (10)
8. DRACULA LIVES (8)
9. SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN (9)
10. DOCTOR WHO (-)

USA COMICS

1. X-MEN (1)
2. AVENGERS (2)
3. FANTASTIC FOUR (4)
4. DAREDEVIL (3)
5. MOON KNIGHT (5)
6. IRON MAN (6)
7. DEFENDERS (7)
8. KA-ZAR (8)
9. DOCTOR STRANGE (9)
10. MICRONANTS (-)

ARTISTS

1. JOHN BYRNE (1)
2. GEORGE PEREZ (2)
3. FRANK MILLER (3)
4. SAL BUSCEMA (5)
5. NEAL ADAMS (4)
6. DAVID COCKRUM (9)
7. GENE COLAN (7)
8. JIM STARLIN (6)
9. BRENT ANDERSON (8)
10. MIKE ZECK (10)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

This is the Top Ten Rating Chart as it appears in Marvel Superheroes. The chart has tended to stabilize out of late and I thought it would be a great idea to feature it in Daredevils.

Your votes may completely alter the picture or prove that what we have here is the final comic fans verdict!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Below are four chart categories: Marvel Artists; Marvel Writers and Marvel Comic Books USA and UK.

Send in your top-ten entries for one, two or all categories.

Each time an artist, writer or comic gets a mention we will award it a number of points depending on its position in the 1-10 rating scale.

If you have less than ten entries for any category don't worry - number them accordingly and send them in.

Names and addresses must be supplied.

There must only be one entry per person per category until further notice. The address to send them to is:

Top Ten Charts,
Bernie Jaye, Marvel Comics Ltd.,
Jedwin House,
205-211 Kentish Town Road,
London NW5 2JU.

SEND YOUR ENTRIES IN IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO.

THE SPIDER-WOMAN

BRING ON THE WOMEN!

Fans of Spider-Woman, sit up and pay attention! From January 10 at 4.20 p.m. for a 12 week period, the Spider-Woman cartoon series will be shown on most ITV regions!



DOUG "Doc Savage" MOENCH

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Next issue we will be printing the first batch of letters sent in by you, so don't miss it!

★ ★

News Feature by Frank returns next issue!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THE **MADDER** HULK GETS...
THE **STRONGER** HULK BECOMES....



OR TO PUT IT ANOTHER
WAY... THE **STRONGER** HULK GETS... THE **MADDER** HULK BECOMES!



TAKE HIM
AWAY
BOYS!









SPIDER-MAN

the
GREEN
GOBLIN'S
PARKER

VIDEO
CHALLENGE!

A GREEN GARBED FIGURE SWOOPS
LOW OVER THE ROOFTOPS...

AT LAST
I HAVE IT! THE
PERFECT MACHINE TO
DEMONSTRATE MY
SUPERIORITY OVER
THE WITLESS WEB-
SLINGER!

I'LL
PROVE TO THE
WORLD I MAKE A
BETTER SPIDER-MAN
THAN
SPIDER-MAN!!

...AND THE CITY WILL
WATCH WITH BAILED BREATH
... FOR IF SPIDERMAN LOSES
HE WILL ACTIVATE A BOMB...
NEW YORK WILL
CEASE TO EXIST!!

BUT
ENOUGH OF THIS, I
MUST PRACTICE!

SUDDENLY, A MESSAGE
APPEARS IN THE SKY NEAR
THE OFFICES OF THE DAILY
BUGLE!

IT'S ABOVE THE REEVES
BUILDING!... GET OVER
THERE QUICK PARKER...
SEE IF YOU CAN GET ANY PIC-
TURES OF THE WEB-SLINGING
NUT WHEN HE ARRIVES!!

YES SIR!!

I'M
GOING... NOT
AS PARKER...

... BUT AS
ONE CERTAIN
WEB-SLINGING
NUT!

UH OH!...
MY SPIDEY-SENSE
TELLS ME THERE'S
TROUBLE IN THE
AIR!!

AN EXPLOSION SENDS SPIDEY PLUNGING TOWARDS THE ROOFTOPS BELOW... STRICKEN BY AN OVERWHELMING SENSE OF DEJA VU!...

THAT EXPLOSION BROKE MY WEBBING

...THIS IS A SET UP!... I'VE BEEN THROUGH ALL THIS A MILLION TIMES PLAYING SPIDER-MAN ON MY ATARI® VIDEO GAMES UNIT AT HOME.

THWIP!

IF I'M RIGHT, THIS WEB WILL BE CUT TOO... HERE GOES NOTHING!...

IT'S TRUE!!... SOME LUNATIC'S MAKING ME ACT OUT THE VIDEO GAME!!

GREAT WORK PARKER! -YOU WENT ALONG WITH THE CON... AND NOW YOU'RE GOING ALONG WITH A LOFL FALL TO THE ROOFTOPS!

-MEANWHILE, ON THE ROOF OF THE REEVES BUILDING...

-THESE ARE IDENTICAL ATARI® VIDEO GAME SYSTEMS WEB-HEAD... EXCEPT FOR ONE SMALL DETAIL!... IF I LOSE, MY SYSTEM WILL SEND OUT AN IMPULSE TO DE-FUSE THE BOMB I HAVE HIDDEN IN THE CITY!

HOWEVER, IF YOU LOSE...

THE IMPULSE FROM YOUR MACHINE WILL DETONATE THE BOMB!

THE SIGNAL IS THE GAME BE...

-YOU DO STAND A CHANCE SPIDER-I...

THIS IS HOWARD TREFOIL FOR CBXTV NEWS

...POLICE ARE SURROUNDING THE REEVES BUILDING WHERE THE GREEN GOBLIN HAS...

...CHALLENGED SPIDER-MAN TO A DUEL FOR THE CITY!... OUR TELESCOPIC LENSES SUGGEST THAT THE GOBLIN PLANS TO USE VIDEO GAME FROM PARKER CALLED SPIDER-MAN TO COMPARE THE SPEEDS OF THEIR REACTIONS... STAY TUNED FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF THIS BIZARRE CONFRONTATION!...

-SUDDENLY IT IS OVER... THE SPIDER-MAN CHARACTER ON SPIDEY'S VIDEO GAME DEFUSES THE BOMB AT THE TOP OF HIS TOWER...

THE CITY IS SAFE!

I'VE LOST!

I'M DEFEATED!

IN SECONDS THE ROOFTOPS SWARM WITH POLICE...

HEY! WEB-SLINGER-I NEED A STATEMENT FROM YOU... HOW DID YOU DO IT?!

-I USE THE SPIDER-MAN VIDEO-GAME TO KEEP MY REACTIONS IN SHAPE IN THE BAD WEATHER... MY AUNT WORRIES ABOUT ME!...

THANKS FOR NOTHING, WISEACRE!

"HAI HAI!... I'VE GOT YOU, SPIDER-MAN! I'VE TRAPPED YOU WITH A REAL-LIFE EMBODIMENT OF THE GAME WE'RE GOING TO PLAY TO DECIDE THE FATE OF THE CITY!"

"THE GREEN GOBLIN... HE'S FINALLY FLIPPED HIS PUMPKIN!... WE'RE GOING TO PLAY A VIDEO GAME FOR THE LIVES OF MILLIONS!..."

"DON'T DO IT GOBLIN!... THEY'RE INNOCENT PEOPLE... YOU'VE GOT ME!... WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT?"

"YOU?!... I DON'T WANT YOU!... I WANT THE PEOPLE TO SEE YOU FAIL... AND I WANT THEM TO DIE KNOWING IT WAS YOUR FAULT!"

"GIVEN, GINS!..."

"...ANCE, MAN!"

"SPIDEY'S SCARED!... HE'S NOT ANSWERING"

"HE'S TOO INTENT ON THE GAME, DUMMY!"

"THE GOBLIN COULD WIN!"

"- NO, LOOK!"

"YOU'RE WINNING!"

"BUT HOW?!"

"WAS SO SURE!!"

"- WISEACRE EH? YOU TELL THE TRUTH AND STILL PEOPLE WON'T BELIEVE YOU..."

"FORGET IT PARKER, IT SOUNDS TOO MUCH LIKE AN AD."

meet **SPIDERMAN** in person
at your local video games dealer and see the full Parker ★ range of games!

if You really want to be in touch with the latest in VIDEO GAMES... join the CLUB!

"- PERHAPS HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED PARKER VIDEO GAMES FOR SUPER-HEROES WHO WANT SUPER EXCITEMENT IN THEIR SECRET IDENTITIES ?!..."

PARKER VIDEO GAMES CLUB

Please use an envelope addressed to Parker at: Parker Video Games Club, FREEPOST 21, 28 Newman Street, London W1P 3HA.

NAME

ADDRESS

Tel No:

IS THIS MORE ACTION THAN EVEN
SPIDER-MAN CAN HANDLE ???!!?!

YOU'RE RUNNING
OUT OF WEB-FLUID!
BUG-BRAIN!
HA, HA, HA!



The Goblin's time bombs are ticking away. Even worse, his Super Bomb perches fiendishly on the High Voltage Tower. The city is on its knees. Can you save it from destruction?

Take home this video game and take a chance. Thwipp! Shoot your web and swing up the buildings to reach the bombs. Thwipp! Shoot again,

escape The Goblin on his web-cutting jet glider. Watch out! The Goblin and his warped gang of criminals are full of sneaky ways to cut your web and plunge you to the streets below. Can you get to the bombs in time? Your web fluid is getting lower...



VIDEO GAMES
THEY HATE TO LET YOU WIN.



For use with the Atan video computer system.

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PAUL NEARY

early artwork

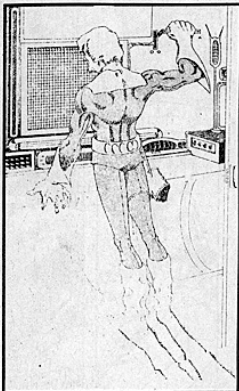
A selection of work appeared in various fanzines in 1968, drawn when Paul was 18 yrs. For all his 'digging' this was the earliest work Paul could find. Apparently his mum threw the rest out!



A still inert moebius!

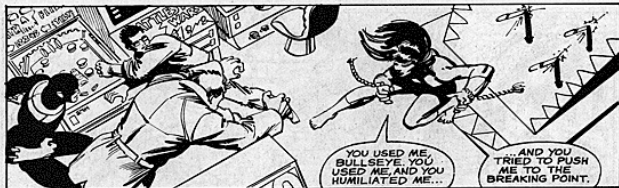


Paul's first published work at age 19 yrs for Bob Poole of Hero Enterprises.



Paul's biography appears next issue!





YOU USED ME,
BULLSEYE. YOU
USED ME, AND YOU
HUMILIATED ME...

...AND YOU
TRIED TO PUSH
ME TO THE
BREAKING POINT.



I DON'T
LIKE
THAT.



I DON'T
LIKE
YOUR
HIRED
MUSCLE.



AND I
DON'T
LIKE
YOU.

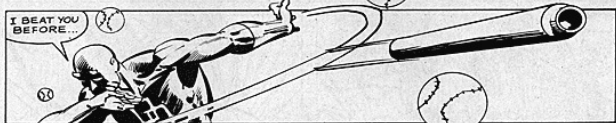
YOUR LIKES
AND DISLIKES
ARE
NO CONCERN
OF MINE,
WIDOW.

BUT YOUR *DEATH* IS.
YOURS, AND MOST
ESPECIALLY DAREDEV--!



THAPP









NO! DAREDEVIL HAS
EARNED MY RESPECT.
BULLSEYE, ON THE
OTHER HAND, HAS
NOT. BESIDES, I DO
NOT TRUST A MAD-
MAN TO MEET HIS...
AH... FINANCIAL
COMMITMENTS.

BULLSEYE,
LISTEN TO ME.
IF YOU WANT
DAREDEVIL
DEAD, YOU
KILL HIM.

YOU THINK
I WON'T?
WELL, I'LL
SHOW YOU!
I'LL SHOW
YOU ALL!

Y-YOU'RE ALL AGAINST
ME AREN'T YOU?
YES, I SEE, NOW!

BUT THAT DOESN'T
MATTER, I'M BULL-
EYE... HEHHEH... AND
IN MY HANDS... HEHHEH
...MY HANDS...

...D-DON'T
HURT ME...
DEVIL...
HEHHEH...



DAREDEVIL,
HIS MIND...

IT'S OVER
NATASHA. COME
ON. WE'RE
GETTING OUT
OF HERE.



WE'LL MEET
AGAIN, DAREDEVIL.
THINGS WILL BE
DIFFERENT.
THEN.



FANZINE REVIEWS

by alan moore

CHAIN REACTION

Issue No. 1, Available from 131, Sydney Rd, Hornsey, London N8 0ET. Single issue: 50p.

Well, here it is: The ghost of *Direct Currents* which I reviewed an issue or so back. The change of title is seemingly due to the fact that DC comics expressed some anxiety over the fact that the earlier 'zine had the same initials as their much-loved comic company.

Since one of these parties is a huge multi-national concern owned by Warner Brothers and the other is a tiny but lovable British fanzine with a circulation of a couple of hundred at tops, I personally feel that most prospective readers would have been able to tell the difference, but what do I know? Maybe DC's circulation figures are worse than they're letting on.

As far as the magazine itself goes, it's a worthy successor to *Direct Currents* and exhibits the same sort of editorial style. It isn't perfect by any means, but there's enough interesting stuff in there to make it worth looking out for.

The zine kicks off with an attractive cover by Steve Whitaker and Nick Neocleous depicting *Dr. Fate* and DC's thaumaturge-in-highboots, *Zatanna*. Those of you who attended this year's ComicCon convention might have seen this cover before, as a one-page illustration in the convention booklet heralding a forthcoming 'zine entitled *Axis*.

It seems that *Axis* was dropped as a title in favour of *Chain Reaction* for fear that people might confuse any mag bearing the former name with the group of Big Name Fans who invaded Poland and launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbour during the forties. And listen, when you've got DC comics on your back already, the last thing you're short of is being hassled by the Nazi party. Ask anyone.

After a very informative news column compiled by Marvel's own Frank Plowright, we move on to a lengthy report of the ComicCon by Marvel's own Hassan Yusuf. (Incestuous? Us?) It's a nice, personalized piece of reporting that captures a lot of the flavour of what comic conventions are all about.

In addition to that there are a handful of reasonably well printed convention photographs showing the various luminaries who attend these gatherings. For the record, there are four photographs of Frank Miller, two of David Lloyd and none of me, although I urge my legions of fans not to boycott this worthy magazine just because of this regrettable oversight.

The con report is followed by a two page review of Marvel America's current selection of annuals, also by Frank Plowright. Frank makes the very valid point that annuals used to be something to look forward to, usually featuring an epic story which resolved some major point of continuity... the wedding of *Mr Fantastic* and the Invisible Girl in *FF Annual No 3*, Jack Kirby's masterful *Thor, Hercules* clash in the first *Thor* annual and so on.

He goes on to point out that with very few exceptions the current rash of annuals mean little more than having to get twice as

depressed as one does reading the regular monthly comic by reason of there being that many more pages of garbage to wade through.

After this undoubtedly true but nonetheless demoralising little observation we get a delightful page of fan trivia in the shape of *Chain Reaction's* 'Quiz Time-A-Go-Go' page. Could you name the 'Legion of Super Pets' or give the precise age of Aunt May? If so, then this is the feature for you.

Actually, this is the element that appeals to me most about *Chain Reaction*. You have, on the one hand, serious and well informed articles such as Peter J. Poole's piece on the relevant comics of the late sixties, and on the other hand you have items like the double page map of Krypton and the mini-article on DC's 1968 comic book atrocity, *The Geek*, one of the most brain-blastingly awful comic books ever produced by human beings.

There's a sort of balance there, between the serious and the inescapably silly, that sums up a lot of what comics fandom revolves around. Other than those articles already mentioned there is a guide to the *Batman* television series by John Lindley, a few pages of general opinions by leading members of comic fandom, an interesting flash-back to what was happening in the

world of comics ten years ago, in September 1972, and a page of musings by Keith Williams as to the origins of superhero's names as used in their civilian identities.

For me though the high spot of the mag was the number of examples scattered throughout of comic book inanity at it's worst, as the editors cruelly reprint a number of horribly embarrassing panels from a wide range of comic companies.

As an example, we are shown a frame from a fifties Submarine story where the avenging son floats over his latest plan to destroy the hated surface dwellers by eliminating the world's water supply: 'AH, GOOD! NOW THE SUN WILL GO TO WORK AND THE WORLD'S POPULATION WILL PERISH WITHOUT WATER!! OH WHAT SWEET REVENGE! AT LAST I'VE GOTTEN EVEN! BUT... WAIT!!! WHAT HAVE I DONE!!! WITHOUT WATER, MY OWN RACE WILL DIE OFF, TOO!!!' Nice one, Namor.

Chain Reaction is an interesting magazine that manages to inform without taking itself too seriously. If you want to see it live long enough to reach issue two then you better start digging for those fifty pence pieces. Recommended.



Mighty Crusaders 5 c Archie. Does anyone understand Mr Justice?

SECRET ORIGINS by Paul Jay



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

ENTER DR. OCTOPUS

WELL, IT FIGGERS!
I DID ALL THE WORK,
AND JOLLY JONAM
WRITES THE STORY
AS IF HE'S THE HERO
AND I'M THE HEAVY!

*IT
HAPPENED
LAST ISH,
AS ALL
BELIEVERS
KNOW!
--SMILEY

IT'S THINGS LIKE
THIS THAT MAKE A
FELLA WANT TO
CANCEL HIS
SUBSCRIPTION!

SPIDER-MAN!
GET OUTTA
HERE,
YOU WEB-SWINGING
WEASEL!

ALL MY
EMPLOYEES
ARE SO BUSY
GAWWIN' AT YOU
THAT THEY'RE
NOT GETTING
ANY REEK
DONE!

DON'T JUST
RATTLE THERE,
YOU PHONY
FINK--

SAY
SOMETHING!!

WHEN YOU FINISH APPLAUDING,
SEND YOUR THANK-YOU
NOTES TO:

SMILIN' JAZZY
STAN LEE and JOHNNY
LEE ROMITA

COME TO THINK OF IT,
MICKEY DEMEO
EMBELLISHES AND
ARTIE SIMAK,
LETTERER,
MIGHT LIKE TO HEAR
FROM YOU, TOO!



SWIFT SECONDS
LATER, A
SOMEWHAT
SPELLBINDING
SWINGER SOARS
ABOVE THE
CAMPUS AT GOOD
OL' E.S.U.--



TELL ME TRUE, SOLDIER BOY--
ARE YOU REALLY SPIDER-MAN'S
NUMBER ONE FAN?

YOU CAN SAY
THAT AGAIN,
GORGEIOUS!

THAT MASKED
MARVEL IS ONE
JOE I'LL TAKE
MY HAT OFF
TO ANY DAY!



BUT HOW CAN YOU BE
SURE HE MIGHTN'T
BE SOMEONE YOU'D
DISLIKE--BENEATH
THAT MASK OF HIS?

NOT A
CHANCE,
DOLL-
FACE!

HEY! LOOKS
LIKE
SOMETHING'S
BUGGIN'
HARRY
OSBORN--!



HI! ANY-
ONE SEEN
PETER
PARKER?

I'M GETTING SICK OF BEING HIS
SOCIAL SECRETARY!

ALL I DO IS TAKE MESSAGES
FOR HIM BECAUSE HE'S
NEVER AROUND!

HE'LL NEVER CHANGE!
ONCE AN ITCH, ALWAYS
AN ITCH!

RIGHT,
GWEN?

DON'T
ASK ME,
GENTS--

I'D RATHER
ITCH THAN
SWITCH!

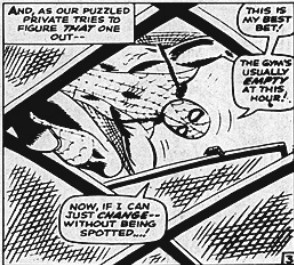


AND, AS OUR PUZZLED
PRIVATE TRIES TO
FIGURE THAT ONE
OUT--

THIS IS
MY BEST
BET!

THE GYM'S
USUALLY
EMPTY
AT THIS
HOUR!

NOW, IF I CAN
JUST CHANGE--
WITHOUT BEING
SPOTTED...!





'INSIDE COMICS'

STAN LEE: BLINDED BY THE HYPE *an affectionate character assassination.*

by alan moore

I doubt that any of you sitting out there reading this are totally unfamiliar with the name Stan Lee . . . unless, of course, you happen to be one of those unfortunates who have spent their childhoods in a laundry hamper. Should this be the case, then please allow me to fill you in on the necessary details.

Stan Lee is the name of the flawed genius responsible for the Marvel Comics empire in it's entirety. Without Stan Lee, you would not be reading this. Without Stan Lee there would have been no *Fantastic Four*, no *X Men*, no *Hulk*, no *Thor*, no nothing. Without Stan Lee there would quite probably have been no Conan movie and it is almost certain that the comic book industry as a whole would be vastly different, assuming that it existed at all.

On the other hand, without Stan Lee you wouldn't have to sit through such marrow-chilling dreck as the Spider-man television show. I suppose it's a case of having to take the rough with the smooth.



My long-distance acquaintance with this gentleman goes back some twenty years to the fateful day when, laid out with one of those loathesome childhood diseases, I had sent my mother out to buy me my weekly comics ration. The particular comic I had been after was an issue of D C's *Blackhawk*.

Knowing, however, that my maternal parent would be unlikely to remember anything as demanding as a two-syllable word like *Blackhawk*, I played it safe and told her that the comic I wanted featured a bunch of people who all wore blue uniforms.

What turned up was *Fantastic Four* number three. Imagine my surprise.

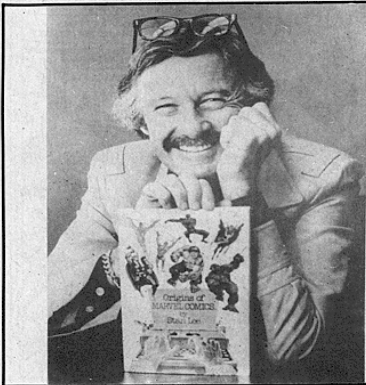
My mother, of course, apologised profusely. For this reason I let her off

with a mild cuffing and didn't loose the dobermanns upon her, as was my usual practice. Some two hours later, after I'd finished reading F.F. no. 3 for something like the eighth time, I realised that she had in fact done me a tremendous service. This comic was utterly stark raving foaming-at-the-mouth *stupendous*!

Now, I was not the sort of child who regularly went in for lavish displays of gratitude but I recall that that evening I threw mother an extra lump of raw meat and agreed to consider putting a couple of extra links in her chain.

At this point I should perhaps explain exactly what it was that devastated me about that third issue of the *Fantastic Four*. After all, when that issue first appeared, most of you readers were just a bunch of random genes and chromosomes wandering round looking for somebody to happen to. On top of that, you have grown up in a world where you have something in the region of forty different super-hero titles to choose from each month.

I doubt you can imagine the sheer impact that single comic possessed back there in the comic-starved waste-



lands of 1961 or whenever it was. Especially to someone whose only exposure to the super hero had been the clear-cut and clean-living square-jawed heroes featured in the DC comics at the time.

The most immediately noticeable thing was the sheer strangeness of Jack Kirby's art. It had a craggy, textured quality that looked almost unpleasant to eyes that had become used to the graceful figures of *Carmino Infantino* or the smooth inking of *Murphy Anderson*. That said, it was a taste which quickly grew upon me.

Only a few short months later I couldn't really look at *Infantino* or *Kane* or *Swann* or any of the other DC artists of that period without feeling that there was something missing... a lack of grittiness or something. Like I say, the art was very, very strange. Those of you whose only exposure to Kirby's artwork has been something like 'The Eternals' can't begin to imagine how strange.

The writing, however, was stranger. It wasn't the plot that was so excep-

tional... as I recall the plot featured a second rate villain called the *Miracle Man* who had the power to create illusions. He attacked the *Fantastic Four*, beat them, they regrouped, beat him, end of story. Nothing special.

What was special was the characterization... the way the characters talked, thought and behaved. I mean, think about it for a moment... there was a standard noble scientist type called *Reed Richards* who was given to making long-winded and pretentious proclamations on everything from Epsilon radiation to Universal Love.

There was his wimpy and faint-hearted girl friend, *Susan Storm*, who always looked as if she'd be much happier curled up in an armchair with a bottle of valium and the latest issue of *Vogue* rather than being captured by the *Mole Man* or someone of that ilk.

There was her skinny, teenaged brother *Johnny* who was brash, loud-mouthed and not a little obnoxious, the sort of person who looked like he'd have less trouble picking up an articulated lorry than he would have picking up a steady girlfriend.

And last, but certainly not least, there was *Ben Grimm*, *The Thing*.

In those early days, the *Thing* was nothing at all like the cuddly, likeable 'Orange Teddy-bear' of later years. In

those days he was portrayed as being something like a manic-depressive *Hulk* with a constant migraine headache, forever sprouting dialogue along the lines of 'Bah! Out of my way, puny mortal!' and smashing up cars and buildings with a gusto that would leave the average soccer hooligan gaping with admiration.

On more than one occasion he came dangerously close to actually murdering the *Human Torch* while in a bad mood and in general you had the impression that he was always on the verge of turning into a fully fledged villain and quitting the *Fantastic Four* for good.

To someone who had cut his teeth upon the sanitised niceness of the *Justice League of America*, this was heady stuff indeed. I mean, in DC comics, if *Superman* ever said anything remotely nasty to *Batman* or *Wonder Woman* you knew that he was either suffering from the unpredictable effects of *Red Kryptonite* or was having his mind controlled by *Lex Luther's* latest 'Brain-Ray'.

With *Ben Grimm*, you know that he was quite likely to pull someone's arms and legs off one at a time for no better reason than that his corn-flakes had gone all soggy before he got round to eating them that morning.

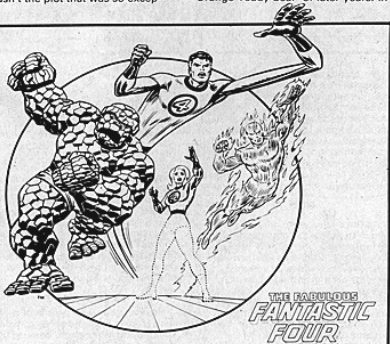
There was a memorable scene in that selfsame issue three which featured the *Invisible Girl* proudly presenting her team-mates with some new costumes which she had designed (Up until that point, the *Fantastic Four* had dressed in ordinary street clothes.)

The *Thing's* costume was a skin-tight blue affair complete with black boots and a blue helmet which did it's best to conceal his hideous, lumpy orange face. By the end of the issue he had ripped it to pieces in a fit of temper and stamped off wearing only the black booties and the modified Y-Fronts which we know and love today.

In the same issue, the *Human Torch* threw a screaming temper tantrum that would have looked better on a five-year old and decided to leave the *Fantastic Four* forever. With all this going on, you can see why I was less than interested by the *Miracle Man* and his horde of illusory monsters.

It was my first taste of Stan Lee's writing and I was hooked.

Subsequent issues were no let down. In issue four the *Sub Mariner* made his first appearance since the 1950's, turning up in the guise of a down and out amnesiac tramp who



A brilliant scientist—his best friend—the woman he loves—and her fiery-tempered kid brother! Together, they braved the unknown terrors of outer space, and were changed by cosmic rays into something more than merely human!

MR. FANTASTIC! THE THING! THE INVISIBLE GIRL! THE HUMAN TORCH! Now they are the FANTASTIC FOUR—and the world will never be the same again!

was quietly rotting away in a bowery flop-house until said establishment was visited by the *Human Torch* who was still on the run from his three team-mates.

In what, to me, remains one of the most electrifying comic scenes ever, an awestruck Johnny Storm ignites one finger using his flame-power and begins to shave away the tramp's shaggy mane of hair and tangled beard to reveal the unearthly triangular face and elegant curving eyebrows of *Prince Namor*, the legendary *Sub Mariner*.

And on and on it went. And not only within the pages of the *Fantastic Four*: during this period Lee was expanding the whole Marvel line-up, revamping the flagging mystery titles to include a constantly increasing menagerie of super-humans, and, most remarkably, writing them all himself. *Thor*, *Ant Man*, *Daredevil*, *Iron Man*, *The Hulk*, *The Avengers* . . . bearing in mind that the majority of these titles were monthlies, perhaps you'd like to sit down with a pencil and paper and work out just how many pages of script Stan the Man was having to turn out in any given month in addition to being the managing editor of a rapidly snowballing comic-book empire.

I mean, I myself have been known to pen a page or two in my time but the thought of a workload like that makes me tremble uncontrollably and give voice to funny little squeaking noises. The man must have had eight pints of black coffee where most of us have blood.



Naturally, not all the scripts were that good, although if anyone had suggested that to me at the time I would have ripped their spine out and fed it to them an inch at a time.

Like most readers of that period I had become totally brainwashed by the sheer bellowing overkill of the Marvel publicity machine. If a cover-blurb informed me that *Millie the Model meets The Rawhide Kid* was "The Greatest Action Epic of All Time" then by God, so it was and never mind about *War and Peace*, *The Bible*, *King Solomon's Mines* and *Moby Dick*. As far as I was concerned, if it wasn't written by Stan Lee it wasn't in the running.

Probably the most remarkable thing that Stan Lee achieved was the way in which he managed to hold on to his audience long after they had grown beyond the age range usually associated with comic book readers of that period. He did this by a constant application of change, modification and development.



No comic book was allowed to remain static for long. *Iron Man* traded in his gunmetal-grey juggernaut of a costume for the sleek red and gold affair that has gradually turned into the costume we know today. *The Hulk* left the *Avengers*, never to return. A Howling Commando got killed from time to time. You can say what you like about the early Marvel universe, but it sure as hell wasn't boring.



As the sixties wore on, Lee's writing began to mirror the changes that were taking place in the society about him. The gritty, streetwise realism slowly gave way to a sense of adventure and wonder on a grand and cosmic scale, just as thousands of middle class American kids were donning kaftans, growing their hair and setting out for San Francisco in search of cosmic adventures of their own.

To many, this "visionary" period of Lee's writing stands as his finest work. Personally, although it knocked me for a loop at the time, I can see with hindsight that in many ways it spelled the beginning of the end. That said, while it lasted it was probably the most

fun you could have without risking imprisonment.

The *Fantastic Four* encountered, in swift succession, the stunning planet-eater known as *Galactus*, the soulful and simonized *Silver Surfer*, the *Black Panther's* technological Utopia set in the heart of the African jungles, the *Inhumans*, the *Watcher* and a vast plethora of equally brain-numbing individuals.

Thor encountered the *Rigelian colonizers* and, more memorably, *Ego the Living Planet*. I'll never forget turning the last page of that particular issue of *Journey into Mystery* to be confronted by the full-page spectacle of a massive organic planet with the grafted-on face of a malign octogenarian.



Believe me, when people of my age wax lyrical about the sense of wonder to be found in those old comics, that's the sort of thing they're talking about. It was the sort of once-in-a-lifetime utterly mind-roasting concept that made you wonder just how long Lee and his Bullpen buddies could keep up that sort of pace and style.

The answer was, sadly, not long.







TO BEGIN OUR DEMONSTRATION, WE NOW PROJECT A SIMULATED MISSILE ATTACK UPON THE SCREEN BEHIND ME!

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THESE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT FILMS HAVE BEEN DECLASSIFIED FOR PUBLIC VIEWING!

AND IT WILL BE THE LAST TIME!



WHAT?!! WHO SAID THAT?!!

I DID! I, THE ONLY ONE ON EARTH POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SEIZE YOUR NULLIFIER--DESPITE ANYTHINGS YOU CAN DO!

THAT POWER! IT CAN BELONG TO--ONLY ONE MAN--!



STAND ASIDE, YOU HELPLESS, BUMBLING FOOLS!

WE CAN'T SHOOT! TOO MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE CLUSTERED AROUND! GET THE TEAR GAS--!!

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